

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 7, 15, 17, 25-29, 34 and 35 and ADD new claim 36 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A witness system, comprising:

confirmation document making means for making a confirmation document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records sent from a seller to the buyer, each seller record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by the seller to the buyer, the buyer making each confirmation document upon receipt of each seller record, and each confirmation document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding seller record;

a witness receiving each confirmation document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmation document;

confirmation means for confirming by the seller that the content of each of the seller records is in agreement with the content of a corresponding one of the confirmation documents sent to the seller from the witness, wherein said witness certifies and registers each confirmation document as being accurate once said confirmation means confirms each confirmation document; and

memory means for storing in memory the confirmation documents registered by said witness.

2. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 1, wherein a buyer makes said confirmation documents.

3. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 1, wherein when said witness confirms the confirmation documents, said witness notifies both the buyer and seller of the confirmation.

4. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 1, wherein when said confirmation documents are sent from said seller to said witness, said documents are registered, and the fact that said documents are registered is confirmed.

5. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 1, wherein when said contents do not agree, as determined according to said confirmation means, said witness is notified of the substantive disagreement.

6. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 1, wherein the storing in memory of said documents according to said memory means is undertaken with respect to each buyer and each seller.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An account settlement system, comprising:  
notarization document making means for making a notarization document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records sent from a seller to the buyer, each seller record ~~comprising including~~ sales data about one or more items sold by the seller to the buyer, the buyer making each notarization document upon receipt of each seller record, and each notarization document ~~comprising including a selected portion of~~ the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding seller record;

sending means for sending to a notarization authority each notarization from the buyer after the buyer makes each notarization document, and for sending each notarization document from the notarization authority to the seller;

confirmation means for confirming by the seller whether the contents of each seller record is in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the notification documents;

a witness having the notarization authority and certifying that each notification document is accurate after the seller confirms that each seller record agrees with the corresponding notarization document;

memory means for storing in a memory the notarization documents certified by said witness;

detailed payment statement making means for making, with reference to the notarization documents stored in the memory, a detailed payment statement, upon which payment to the seller by the buyer is to be based;

funds transfer request means for requesting a transfer of funds, based on the detailed payment statement; and

notification means for notifying said witness of a transfer of funds, when funds are transferred to the seller based on the funds transfer request.

8. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system using a witness system according to claim 7, wherein said detailed payment statement is made in accordance with payment terms.

9. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system using a witness system according to claim 8, wherein said payment terms are managed by said witness.

10. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system using a witness system according to claim 7, wherein said seller checks said detailed payment statement against documents stored in memory according to said memory means.

11. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system according to claim 7, wherein making of said detailed payment statement is undertaken by said buyer.

12. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system according to claim 7, wherein making of said detailed payment statement is undertaken by said witness.

13. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system according to claim 12, wherein said buyer checks said detailed payment statement in accordance with documents stored in memory according to said memory means.

14. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system utilizing the witness system according to claim 7, wherein when said witness system notarizes notarization documents, notification of said notarization is given to both the buyer and seller.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system, comprising:

notarization document making means for making a notarization document by a seller for each one of a plurality of buyer records sent from a buyer to the seller, each buyer record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by the buyer to the seller, the seller making each notarization document upon receipt of each buyer record, and each notarization document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one

item from a corresponding buyer record;

sending means for sending to a notarization authority each notarization from the seller after the seller makes each notarization document, and for sending each notarization document from the notarization authority to the buyer;

confirmation means for confirming by the buyer whether the contents of each buyer record is in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the notification documents;

a witness having the notarization authority and certifying that each notification document is accurate after the buyer confirms that each buyer record agrees with the corresponding notarization document;

memory means for storing in a memory the notarization documents certified by said witness;

detailed payment statement making means for making, by said buyer, with reference to the notarization documents stored in the memory, a detailed payment statement upon which a set-off payment by the seller to the buyer is based; and

request means for requesting a financial institution to issue a check to the buyer, based on the detailed payment statement.

16. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system utilizing the witness system according to claim 15, wherein said financial institution notifies said witness when a check is issued based on said check issue request.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system, comprising:

notarization document making means for making a notarization document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records sent from a seller to the buyer, each seller record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by the seller to the buyer, the buyer making each notarization document upon receipt of each seller record, and each notarization document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding seller record;

sending means for sending to a notarization authority each notarization from the buyer after the buyer makes each notarization document, and for sending each notarization document from the notarization authority to the seller;

confirmation means for confirming by the seller whether the contents of each seller record is in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the notification documents;

a witness having the notarization authority and certifying that each notification document is accurate after the seller confirms that each seller record agrees with the corresponding notarization document;

memory means for storing in a memory the notarization documents certified by said witness;

detailed payment statement making means for making, with reference to the notarization documents stored in the memory, a detailed payment statement, upon which payment to the seller by the buyer is to be based; and

request means for requesting a financial institution to issue a note to the buyer.

18. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system utilizing a witness system according to claim 17, wherein said witness is notified when said financial institution has issued a note based on said note issuance request.

19. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system according to claim 7, wherein at the time said detailed payment statement is made, set-off processing is performed when said buyer is possessed of a receivable against said seller.

20. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 1, wherein said witness confirms in advance a buyer and a seller and utilizes an authentication certificate when performing any procedure.

21. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system utilizing said witness system according to claim 7, wherein said witness confirms in advance a buyer and a seller and utilizes an authentication certificate when performing any procedure.

22. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 1, wherein data transmitted among said witness, buyer, and seller, are encoded.

23. (ORIGINAL) An account settlement system utilizing said witness system according to claim 7, wherein data transmitted among said witness, buyer, and seller, are encoded.

24. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 20, wherein said witness notarizes said transmitted data.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for document confirmation by a witness system, comprising:

making a confirmatory document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records sent from a seller to the buyer, each seller record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by the seller to the buyer, the buyer making each confirmatory document upon receipt of each seller record, and each confirmatory document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding seller record;

sending to a witness each confirmatory document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmatory document, and sending each confirmatory document from the witness to the seller;

confirming by the seller whether the contents of each seller record are in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the confirmatory documents;

certifying, by the witness, that each confirmatory document is accurate, and notifying the buyer and the seller of each certification; and

storing the certified documents in a memory.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An account settlement method utilizing a witness system, comprising:

making a notarization document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records sent periodically from a seller to the buyer, each seller record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by the seller to the buyer, the buyer making each notarization document upon receipt of each seller record, and each notarization document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding seller record;

sending to a notarization authority each notarization document from the buyer after the buyer makes each notarization document, and sending each notarization document from the notarization authority to the seller;

confirming by the seller whether the contents of each seller record are in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the notarization documents;

notarizing, by a witness having the notarization authority, that each document is accurate and notifying the buyer and the seller of each notarization, after the seller confirms that each seller record agrees with the corresponding notarization document;

storing in a memory the notarized documents;

making, with reference to the stored notarization documents, a detailed payment statement upon which is based payment by the buyer to the seller; and  
requesting the transfer of funds to the seller, based on the detailed payment statement.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable memory medium containing a program causing a computer to execute document confirmation processes performed by a witness system, and comprising a process of:

making a confirmatory document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records sent from a seller to the buyer, each seller record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by the seller to the buyer, the buyer making each confirmatory document upon receipt of each seller record, and each confirmatory document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding seller record;

sending, to a witness, each confirmatory document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmatory document, and sending each confirmatory document from the witness to the seller;

confirming by the seller whether the contents of each seller record are in agreement with the contents of a corresponding one of the confirmatory documents;

certifying by the witness that each confirmatory document is accurate, and notifying the buyer and the seller of each certification, after the seller confirms that each seller record agrees with the corresponding confirmatory document; and

storing in a memory each certified document.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable memory medium containing a program causing a computer to execute an account settlement process using a witness system, and comprising a process of:

making a notarization document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records sent from a seller to the buyer, each seller record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by the seller to the buyer, the buyer making each notarization document upon receipt of each seller record, and each notarization document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding seller record;

sending, to a notarization authority, each notarization document from the buyer after the buyer makes each notarization document, and sending each notarization document from the notarization authority to the seller;

confirming, by the seller, whether the contents of each seller record and the contents of

a corresponding one of the notarization documents are in agreement;

notarizing, by a witness having the notarization authority, that each notarization document is accurate, and notifying the buyer and the seller of each notarization, after the seller confirms that each seller record agrees with the corresponding notarization document;

storing, in a memory, the notarized documents;

making, with reference to the notarized documents, a detailed payment statement upon which is based payment by the buyer to the seller; and

requesting that funds be transferred to the seller, based on the detailed payment statement.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A witness system, comprising:

first computing means for making a document upon receipt of each one of a plurality of records, each record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by a seller to a buyer, each document being made upon receipt of each record, and each document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding record;

second computing means for confirming the contents of each document; and

third computing means for performing notarization of each confirmed document and storing in a memory each notarized document data.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A witness system according to claim 29, wherein said storing in a memory and substantive confirmation of document data are executed according to a screen display of said third computing means.

31. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 29, wherein said document data comprise at least one of either a written will, written contract, written application, private communication, written report, or written summons, or a combination thereof.

32. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 29, wherein said first computing means encodes the said document data, transmits said data to said second computing means through said third computing means, confirms the contents of and further encodes said data, sends said data to said third computing means, and said third computing means further encodes the data sent from said second computing means and sends said data to said first or second computing means, or both.



33. (ORIGINAL) A witness system according to claim 32, wherein with respect to data transmitted among said first, second, and third computing means, a public access key for the sending side is sent in advance to the receiving side, and a receiving side public access key is sent to the transmitting side, a message, obtained by combining (a) a message encoded with a sender secrecy key and further encoded by DES and (b) DES-decoding DEK, encoded with a receiver's public access key, is transmitted as transmission data, and, at said receiving side, said transmission data is received, DEK produced therefrom by decoding said data with a secrecy key corresponding to said public access key, data encoded with DES is encoded with DEK, and data decoded by said sender-side secrecy key is compounded by means of said sender side public access key.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An account settlement system, comprising:

payment request means for making a detailed payment statement that aggregates a selected plurality of payment objects and sending a payment request based on the detailed payment statement, each payment object being created upon receipt of a corresponding one of a plurality of seller sales records, each seller sales record ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by a seller to a buyer, and each payment object ~~comprising~~ including the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding seller sales record; and

comparison means for comparing the detailed payment statement with the seller sales record.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of confirming document data, comprising:

creating a confirmation document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of vouchers sent to the buyer by a seller, each voucher ~~comprising~~ including sales data about one or more items sold by the seller to the buyer, the buyer making each confirmation document upon receipt of each voucher, and each confirmation document ~~comprising~~ including a selected portion of the sales data of at least one item from a corresponding voucher;

sending each confirmation document from the buyer after the buyer makes each confirmation document to a witness;

sending each confirmation document from the witness to the seller;

confirming contents of each confirmation document by the seller by comparing the contents of each confirmation document with the contents of a corresponding one of the vouchers;

certifying and registering each confirmation document by the witness when the witness receives confirmation of the contents of each confirmation document from the seller; and storing each payment document.

36. (NEW) A method of exchanging sales data between a buyer and a seller using a witness system, comprising:

transmitting a confirmation document to the witness system from a buyer in response to receipt of seller records corresponding to sold items delivered by a seller, the confirmation document including a selected portion of the seller records received by the buyer;

automatically determining delivery vouchers of the seller corresponding to the selected portion of the seller records included in the confirmation document; and

authenticating the confirmation document with the delivery vouchers of the seller via the witness system.